

News Release



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

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Citistates' Johnson tapped as symposium keynote

Air District event kicks off Sept. 29 in Bakersfield

(Sept. 21) Esteemed public-policy innovator and think-tank CEO Curtis Johnson will give the keynote address at the upcoming air-quality symposium, "Unique Valley, Unique Solutions: Working Together for Clean Air in the San Joaquin Valley," Sept. 29-30 in Bakersfield.

Registrations are still being accepted for the symposium, presented by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and a handful of leaders in environmental issues. The two-day event, at the Holiday Inn Select, features a variety of discussions and presentations by leading air-quality experts, planners, industry groups, nonprofits and other stakeholders in improving the Valley's air quality. The public is invited to attend.

Johnson, president of the Citistates Group, a Minneapolis-based think-tank that promotes effective regionalism, has a long and illustrious career addressing urban-planning and environmental issues. He has served as chairman of the Metropolitan Council in Minneapolis, a regional governing agency; as head of the Citizens League, a public affairs research and action organization; and as policy advisor and chief of staff to former Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson, among other positions. He writes a feature series with columnist Neil Peirce, has coauthored (with Peirce) the books *Citistates* and *Boundary Crossers*, and is an active commentator on regional planning issues through the national press and other forums.

His keynote address, "Valley Air: Perfect Storm or Opportunity to Innovate?,"

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Symposium keynote

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during Wednesday's luncheon is the centerpiece of an in-depth event that aims to tackle tough air-quality and quality of life issues in the context of the sprawling, geographically unique San Joaquin Valley.

"We're pleased to have someone of Curt's stature addressing pertinent air-quality issues from the perspective of regionalism," said Dave Crow, the District's air pollution control officer. "We anticipate that his presentation will stimulate a lot of discussion."

In addition to Johnson's presentation, the symposium program includes timely panel discussions on a variety of topics, and opportunities for one-on-one discussions with the presenters and Air District management staff. Some of the panel topics are "Land-use, Transportation and Air Quality: Rebuilding the Valley"; "Valley Coalitions: Building Strategies on Common Sense"; "Engaging Communities in the Pollution Solution"; and "From Here to Clean: Valley Air Quality and New Scientific Approaches."

Late registrations will be accepted through Monday, Sept. 27. The symposium fee, including breakfast and lunch both days and a networking reception, is \$205 per person, with a 50 percent discount for students and members of nonprofit organizations. Scholarships are also available.

For more information and registration materials, log onto www.Valleyair.org or contact Kelly Malay at 559-230-5851 (Kelly.Malay@valleyair.org).